Caste based discrimination in AIIMS

2025. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the caste based discrimination and harassment of students and doctors at AIIMS; and

(b) if so, the steps being proposed or taken to protect the vulnerable groups?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a Committee under the Charimanship of Professor Sukha Deo Thorat, Chairman, University Grants Commission to look into the complaints from Members of Parliament, media reports and other representations on the alleged harassment of SC/ST students in AIIMS. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Complaints against private medical colleges

2026. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private medical colleges in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that these medical colleges are charging exorbitant fees from students for admission;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) As per information furnished by the Medical Council of India, there are 131 private medical colleges.

(b) to (d) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 14.8.2003 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education, has already clarified that each institution shall have the freedom to fix its own fee structure. However, no institution shall charge capitation fee or indulge in profiteering. Further, the Hon'ble Court has also directed that each State Government shall set

up a Committee under the Chairmanship of retired High Court Judge to decide whether the fee proposed by the institute is justified and does not amount to profiteering or charging of capitation fee. The said committee may approve the fee structure proposed by the institute or may propose some other fee, which shall be binding on the institute for a period of three years. Any violation in charging of fee is to be looked after by the concerned State Governments.

New method for Peadiatric AIDS testing

2027. SHRI EKNATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the first country to introduce DNA Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, a dry blood sampling method of testing for paediatric AIDS;

(b) whether it is also a fact that till now, there was no way to diagnose a newborn with HIV; and

(c) if so, the details of the new method?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) No, Sir, India is among the few countries in the world to introduce DNA Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, a dry blood sampling method of testing for paediatric AIDS.

Currently used rapid/ELISA tests in the programme detect antibodies to HIV which are present in children of HIV positive mothers and may give false positive results in children under 18 months of age.

The new method will collect blood sample of children under 18 months of age on a filter paper and after drying, this will be tested for proviral DNA of HIV.

Clinical establishment ACT

2028. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to introduce a Clinical Establishment Act;